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Letter dated 19 February 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I am writing to you with regard to the letter from Syria, dated 15 February 2013 (A/67/745-S/2013/98), which once again aims at distracting the focus of the international community on the grave humanitarian consequences of the Syrian crisis due to the deliberate and indiscriminate assault of the Syrian regime on its people.

The letter is yet another futile attempt by the Syrian regime to cover up the truth. Such unfounded allegations cannot be taken into consideration and are nothing more than a failed regime's desperate and deceptive effort to legitimize, unavailingly, the situation in Syria, by refusing to assume responsibility and putting the blame on others. The regime wages an all-out war on its people, calls them "terrorists" and denies not only their legitimate aspirations but also their fundamental rights. Contrary to how the Syrian regime portrays it, the ongoing situation in Syria is not a fight against terror. It is a struggle for democracy against tyranny.

Regional peace and stability is under serious threat due to the brutal policies of the Syrian regime, spilling over to the neighbourhood.

Having rejected similar baseless allegations of the Syrian regime in various platforms in earlier instances, Turkey will continue to cooperate with the international community to support and extend a helping hand to the Syrian people, whose legitimate aspirations should be met without further delay.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 33, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Y. Halit **Çevik**

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